

# 2006-2007 Mayor's Youth Council

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Council Chair	Ana Vazquez-Trejo	Bellaire	12 <sup>th</sup>
City Secretary	Zuri Dale	Barbara Jordan	12 <sup>th</sup>
At-Large – 1	Jessica Zhao	Bellaire	12 <sup>th</sup>
At-Large – 2	Andrea Roth	Duchesne Academy	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	ArMon Funches	Lamar	11 <sup>th</sup>
At-Large – 3	<i>(Council Office is currently without an elected official)</i>		
At-Large – 4	Charles Brown, III	HSPVA	10 <sup>th</sup>
At-Large – 5	Emily Benigno	St. Agnes	12 <sup>th</sup>
District A	Cindy Dinh	Spring Woods	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Peyton Davis	Stratford	12 <sup>th</sup>
District B	Sharita Palmer	Barbara Jordan	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Alex Muniz	Aldine Senior High	10 <sup>th</sup>
District C	Zachary Garber	Bellaire	11 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Margaret Belchic	The Kinkaid School	11 <sup>th</sup>
District D	Marquis Alexander	Barbara Jordon	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Kristen James	HSPVA	10 <sup>th</sup>
District E	Andrew Benigno	Strake Jesuit	10 <sup>th</sup>
District F	Giselle Robleto	Kerr	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Justin Fitzgerald	Challenge Early Learning	12 <sup>th</sup>
District G	Mahevish Virani	Stratford	11 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Hallie Schaper	Stratford	11 <sup>th</sup>
District H	Jesus Garza	Davis	12 <sup>th</sup>
Sr. Aide	Damona Woodley	Washington	11 <sup>th</sup>
District I	Alaina Fielder	Lamar	10 <sup>th</sup>

# More about the Members

(Listed alphabetically by last name)



Name: Marquis Gerrard Alexander  
School: Barbara Jordan High School for Careers, Senior  
Birthday: July 13, 1989  
MYC Position: District D – Council Member

I would sum up my character by saying that I am a normal regular kind of guy that tries to live life to the fullest. I try to work hard to accomplish anything that is put before me. Whatever I start, I try to finish to the best of my abilities. I love sitting back, watching the fruit of my labors because it brings me joy to see that I have made a difference.

I wanted to get involved with the MYC in order to bridge the gap in communication between youth and adults. We may be young, but we have issues that are important to us also. Anything that I can do to voice those concerns, I try to do.

Name: Margaret Belchic  
School: The Kinkaid School, Junior  
Birthday: July 3, 1989  
MYC Position: District C – Senior Aide

I love trying and learning new things. I am also fascinated by other cultures and am an avid fan of all types of music. I love going to see live concerts as well. Art is also very important to me as I enjoy visiting the various museums and galleries around Houston.

I first heard about the Mayor's Youth Council from my friend Rebecca Traber who is a former member. The passion she used when describing her experience made me realize that this was something I wanted to participate in myself. I also felt that I could really exhibit my strengths as a persistent hard worker.



Name: Andrew Michael Benigno  
School: Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, Sophomore  
Birthday: October 29, 1990  
MYC Position: District E – Senior Aide

I am a motivated, hard-working individual who sets personal challenges for himself, and takes life seriously. I enjoy making new friendships, working together with my peers on projects, and making a difference in the lives of others. I am a sincere, down to earth individual who is content with who I am, and where I am heading in life. I have a strong sense of loyalty to my family and friends, and I'm fairly calm-natured.

My sister Emily introduced me to what the MYC has to offer as far as community service opportunities and the chance to learn about the operations of city government. I look forward to meeting high school students throughout Houston and working with them on special projects and voicing my opinion on issues facing our city today. Involvement on the Youth Council will help me gain confidence in expressing my opinions and in meeting the challenges associated with public service.

Name: Emily Anne Benigno  
School: St. Agnes Academy  
Birthday: April 17, 1989  
MYC Position: At-Large Position 5 - Council Member

I am an energetic, fun-loving, goal-oriented person who has a strong commitment to service. I consider myself to be confident and determined but at the same time, kind and understanding; someone whom my friends can feel comfortable with, and whom they can trust for advice and encouragement. My dedication to long-range goals has helped me to develop a genuine work ethic at school, church, and within the community. I consider myself to be a leader because I am efficient, have strong organizational skills, and I am capable of motivating others to accomplish the task at hand.

One of my most meaningful accomplishments has been my tenure on last years' City of Houston MYC. Serving on the Council has provided me the opportunity to meet and work with high school students from across Houston to discuss and debate current issues at monthly meetings as well as to get an inside view of the inner workings of the city's politics. I especially enjoy the Council's involvement with city-sponsored volunteer projects and the chance to establish a rapport with civic leaders and with the citizens of Houston.



Name: Charles Brown, III  
School: HSPVA  
Birthday:  
MYC Position: Council Member – At-Large Position 4

Name: Zuri Dale  
School: Barbara Jordan  
Birthday: 01/04/1989  
MYC Position: City Secretary

I am very outgoing and very easy to get along with. I have my own sense of style and am very independent. My conservativeness and positive way of thinking make me a fair person. I am a perfectionist and strive to be the best in everything I do.

I needed an extreme amount of community service hours and I knew we would get a lot of them by being on this organization. I also knew it would look good on resumes and other things





Name: Peyton Scott Davis  
School: Stratford High School, Senior  
Birthday: March 14, 1989  
MYC Position: District A – Senior Aide

If I had to sum up my character in 4 sentences I would say that I am a fun and loving person. I love to laugh and play, but I also like to focus on the hobby I love most; singing. My God comes before my family and my family comes before me. I want to live my life as a song; a calm beginning and end it with a bang!

I wanted to be involved with the Mayor's Youth Council for a number of reasons. One of which is I have very strong wants for the youth of Houston today. Being a youth myself, I hate seeing the opportunities put in front of me that maybe aren't being offered to someone in a different neighborhood. I have a passion for many things that I want to share with Houston and I felt that getting involved with this would be the easiest way. The opportunity seemed too amazing to pass.

Name: Cindy Mai Dinh  
School: Spring Woods High School, Senior  
Birthday: November 21, 1988  
MYC Position: District A – Council Member

I never considered venturing into the political field until I became involved in extra-curricular activities in high school. After three years of conducting meetings, organizing community service projects, I believe I am ready to branch outside the school environment. With the Mayor's Youth Council outreach spanning the entire city, I can engage in community service projects on a grander scale. I hope my enthusiasm for volunteering will motivate other teens to play an active part in their community.

I like the smell of coffee beans, the sight of clear blue skies, the taste of warm chocolate chip cookies and the touch of kindness. I'm always in a cheerful mood, flashing a smile at everyone I meet. Determination and dedication help form my strong work ethic. I work whole-heartedly in everything I do and I believe optimism is the key to success.



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Name: Alaina Fielder  
School: Lamar High School, Sophomore  
Birthday: May 22, 1991  
MYC Position: At-Large 5 – Senior Aide

I'm an easygoing, caring and happy person who likes being involved in community projects. Meeting people and making friends are always fun for me. I really enjoy going to see stage plays and musicals when I get a chance. I like to bake treats for my friends and see people happy.

Growing up, Houston has always been a part of who I am. Now, I want to be a part of it.

Name: Justin Devon Fitzgerald  
School: Challenge Early College High School, Senior  
Birthday: 05/28/1989  
MYC Position: District F – Senior Aide

At times, I can be enthusiastic and inadvertently, I can be very apprehensive. I am a realist and understand the aspects of personalities and friendships. I am a family oriented young man who wants to make a difference in the world. Normally, my friends criticize me for working hard; however, I would rather work hard, than not work at all.

The Mayor's Youth Council, I strongly believe, brings together the youth of Houston and establishes a working environment that, while, additionally helping other surrounding communities, motivates teens to learn about social services and the city's government.



Name: ArMon Malik Funches  
School: Lamar High School, Junior  
Birthday: June 23, 1990  
MYC Position: At-Large Position 2 – Senior Aide

I am a very quiet character, who tries his best at everything he does. My world is very open, and I have a very open minded person. I am always very helpful, and I am normally very dependable. My friends tend to trust me very much. However, I can be a procrastinator, and lazy, but I try my best to change my faults.

Well, I really would like to help people, and learn about the ways of the world. I really want to get out and experience different lifestyles and also meet new people. I also need help in work, and getting ready for college.

Name: Zachary Garber  
School: Bellaire High School, Junior  
Birthday: April 25, 1990  
MYC Position: District C – Council Member

I am a conscientious person, who tries to help others. I am patient and I work hard for others. I try to be nice to others as well.

I was in it last year and I enjoyed it a lot. The people are nice and I was able to have fun.



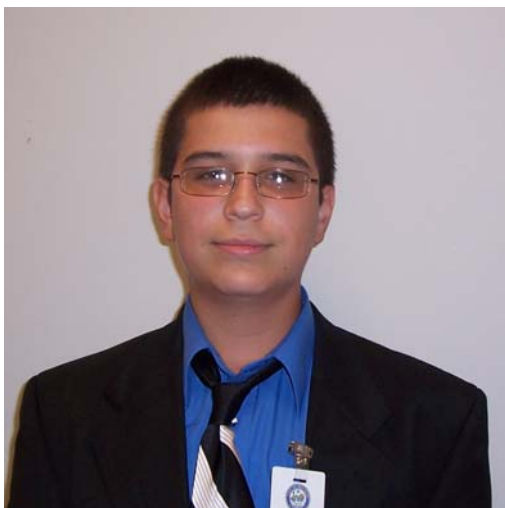


Name: Adrian Garza  
School: Davis, Senior  
Birthday:  
MYC Position: Council Member – District H

Name: Kristen Brianna James  
School: HSPVA, Sophomore  
Birthday: September 27, 1990  
MYC Position: District D – Senior Aide

If you had to sum up your character/ personality in 4 sentences, what would you write: I am a firm believer in Christ. It may seem as if I'm shy, but no matter where I am or what I'm doing, I love to have fun and be goofy. I also love to be funny; making people laugh is a hobby of mine! Every time people see me I am always singing, listening to music, playing music, or learning about music.

I wanted to get involved with the Mayor's Youth Council because it's a good way to learn current events in my city and much more about the city of Houston that I do not already know. It is also a good way to meet and make new friends who share the same interests as I do.



Name: Alex P. Muniz  
School: Aldine Senior High School, Sophomore  
Birthday: January 9, 1991  
MYC Position: District B – Senior Aide

I'm a fun loving person that loves watching Baseball, especially the Houston Astros. I love helping people in there time of need, and cheering people up. I'm a huge Astro's fan. My favorite player is Craig Biggio. I'm a great energetic person who will bring energy into a crowd in a matter of minutes.

In the future, I would like to pursue a career in Law Enforcement and as a Homicide Detective. I believe being in the MYC will help me be one step closer to accomplishing my goal.

Name: Sharita Janelle Palmer  
School: Barbara Jordan, Senior  
Birthday: June 7, 1989  
MYC Position: District B – Council Member

I'm a very intelligent, sociable, honest, and trustworthy person. My character is very bold, and outgoing. I love helping, and building others up. Also, I enjoy having fun, but I'm very hard-working and serious at the appropriate time.

I was a member of the Mayor's Youth Council last year. The council was very fun and, enlightening. I was informed and expressed many of my opinions on youth problems of today. The Mayor's Youth council was great with volunteering, and helping others. Therefore, I wanted to come back this year, and experience another year of fun.



Name: Giselle Regina Robleto  
School: Kerr High School, Senior  
Birthday: July 25, 1989  
MYC Position: District F – Council Member

My giving nature and desire for a better tomorrow are the key motivations in my life. Making a difference is what I am all about, and I do that through commitment, respect, determination, and hard work. My charisma and ability to work with others shines through when team effort is required. Most of all, I believe that we must each "be the change we want to see in the world."

This opportunity was just too great to pass up! I've always been passionate about giving back to the community and speaking out for the youth of today. Hopefully this experience can give me the start I need to make a difference for our future generation. My aspirations include creating international policies that will affect the world in a positive way.

Name: Andrea Stephanie Roth  
School: Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Senior  
Birthday: September 06, 1988  
MYC Position: At-Large Position 2 – Council Member

I consider myself to be outgoing and easy to get along but, I can be shy but all you have to say is hello and I bounce back. I'm easy to get along. I can sometimes be confusing when I speak and all you have to say is that I lost you and I am willing to repeat myself and try to explain it differently. I love to have fun.

I wanted to get involved to learn more about politics on a local level and also I wanted to meet new people from all over the state. I also wanted the experience to work on some issues that are most important in today's youth.





Name: Hallie Schaper  
School: Stratford  
Birthday: December 22, 1989  
MYC Position: District G – Senior Aide

Being the oldest of 3 sisters I've learned to be a patient, responsible, and diplomatic person. I am a great listener and am always looking out for the little guy. I'm a born leader but I also know when some one else has a good idea to just go along with the flow. I look forward to working hard at representing the youth of Houston.

I thought it would be a good opportunity to speak out about problems going on with the youth of today. I would like to be the voice of my peers and help make a difference.

Name: Ana Vazquez-Trejo  
School: Bellaire High School, Senior  
Birthday: March 13, 1990  
MYC Position: Chair

I am a self-starter, loyal, and dedicated. Community service is my passion. I am generally a very happy and friendly person.

I wanted to be involved with the youth council because I wanted to learn more about city government and be able to help youth in the city of Houston. I also wanted to be able to meet different people from different parts of the city and work with them for a better Houston.



Name: Mahevish Virani  
School: Stratford High School  
Birthday: December 7, 1989  
MYC Position: District G – Council Member

My personality reflects directly with my culture and up-bringing. I love to help people and make a difference. I am curious and I ask many questions. Overall, I am a caring, loving, and a fun person to be with!

I got involved with the Mayor's Youth Council because I want to get an experience in the government field. I want to learn and share my experience with others. In addition, I have many ideas to bring to the table and want to apply my knowledge to make a difference in this world.

Name: Da'mona Lanette Woodley  
School: Booker T. Washington, Junior  
Birthday: July 31, 1990  
MYC Position: District H – Senior Aide

I am a very outgoing person that loves to satisfy everybody. I am a cautious decision maker. Being strong in the area of communication, I am very talkative. I am dedicated to all the activities that I take part in.

I wanted to have the opportunity of having a voice. The Youth Council gave me a chance of helping out students and youth everywhere.



Name: Jessica Zhao  
School: Bellaire High School  
Birthday: August 6, 1989  
MYC Position: Council Member – At-Large Position 1

I am optimistic and cheerful; the world is a half full glass. I am responsible and hardworking; projects are always done on time. I love meeting new people but can sometimes be a little shy. I am creative; I love making things from scratch.

It seemed like a great opportunity to understand how government works and to meet new people. I also wanted to have a part in everything that happens in my community.